

## Case 3615

### *Polybothris* Dupont, 1833 (Insecta, Coleoptera; BUPRESTIDAE): proposed conservation as the correct original spelling

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Article 81 of the Code, is the conservation of the spelling of the buprestid genus name *Polybothris*. The name was originally published as *Polybotris* but the spelling *Polybothris* has been in prevailing usage since 1900. Reversal of precedence cannot be used to suppress *Polybotris* since the spelling has been used in a small number of publications after 1899.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; Coleoptera; *Polybothris*; *Polybotris*; *Polybothris croesus*; BUPRESTIDAE; Africa.

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1. Dejean (1833, p. 78) was the first to use the buprestid genus name *Polybothris*. He did not provide a description or definition of the taxon. He included three species-group names from Madagascar under it, *P. quadrifoveolata*, *P. madagascariensis* and *P. stigmatipennis*. These species-group names were not available at the time of Dejean's publication because they had not been described and Dejean did not provide a description or definition in his publication. Therefore, *Polybothris* Dejean, 1833 is not available.

2. Dupont (1833, pl. 77) described the species *croesus* from Madagascar under the genus-group name *Polybotris*. Therefore *Polybotris* was made available for the first time in this publication and *croesus* is the type species by monotypy. This species is currently included in the nominotypical subgenus of *Polybothris* and is considered a junior synonym of *Buprestis sumptuosa* Klug, 1833 (Bellamy 2008, p. 888) - in all publications seen since 1837, including the recent catalogues of Bellamy (2006, p. 147; 2008, p. 888).

3. Dejean (1836, p. 88) listed 17 species-group names under the genus *Polybothris*, all from Madagascar. The following seven species were previously described by Klug (1833) and were available: *Buprestis zivetta* Klug, 1833, *Buprestis cassidea* Klug,

1833, *Buprestis flesus* Klug, 1833, *Buprestis solea* Klug, 1833, *Buprestis platessa* Klug, 1833, *Buprestis chalcocrysea* Klug, 1833 and *Buprestis aeneomaculata* Klug, 1833.

4. Spinola (1837, p. 115) described the genus *Polybothris* for the first time and listed 17 available species from Madagascar, including all seven available in Dejean (1836). The other available species in Spinola (1837) were: *Buprestis sumptuosa* Klug, 1833; *Polybotris craesus* Dupont, 1833; *Buprestis carcharias* Klug, 1833; *Polybothris ancora* Spinola, 1837; *Buprestis colliciata* Guérin-Méneville, 1832; *Polybothris sexfoveolata* Spinola, 1837; *Buprestis complanata* Guérin-Méneville, 1832; *Buprestis cassidoides* Guérin-Méneville, 1832; *Buprestis rhombus* Klug, 1833; *Buprestis rotundata* Guérin-Méneville, 1832.

5. This genus is attributed to Spinola, 1837 under the spelling *Polybothris* in nearly all publications seen since 1900, including Kerremans (1903, p. 97; 1911, p. 314), Théry (1905, p. 176), Obenberger (1926, p. 181), Kurosawa (1993, p. 577), Bellamy (2003, p. 47; 2006, p. 87; 2008, p. 848) and Bouchard et al. (2011, p. 281). A search through the online version of the Zoological Record from 1864 to date yielded 34 hits for *Polybothris* and none for *Polybotris*. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the spelling *Polybotris* has been used a few times in non-taxonomic publications in the 20th Century. The genus includes 225 species from Madagascar and Comoro Islands with one species from South Africa (Bellamy, 2008).

6. *Polybothris*, as used by Spinola (1837), could be considered an incorrect subsequent spelling of *Polybotris* Dupont (1833) since the sole species included by Dupont in his genus *Polybotris* is also listed by Spinola (1837) in the genus *Polybothris*. The spelling *Polybothris* is in prevailing usage but not attributed to the author and date of the original spelling. Therefore Article 33.3.1 of the Code cannot be used to preserve the spelling *Polybothris*. Nevertheless we believe that the spelling *Polybothris* should be conserved to promote stability but with the name credited to Dupont (1833) since he made it available for the first time. A change in authorship would not affect the taxonomic concept of the genus because the type species currently recognized for *Polybothris* (*Buprestis sumptuosa* Klug) and the only species included by Dupont (*Polybotris croesus*) are synonyms.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:
- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that the correct original spelling of the generic name *Polybotris* Dupont, 1833 is *Polybothris*;
  - (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Polybothris* Dupont, 1833 (gender feminine), type species by monotypy *Polybothris croesus* Dupont, 1833;
  - (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *croesus* Dupont, 1833, as published in the binomen *Polybotris croesus* (specific name of the type species of *Polybothris* Dupont, 1833);
  - (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Polybotris* Dupont, 1833 (ruled in (1) above to be an incorrect original spelling of *Polybothris* Dupont, 1833).

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).